

Cattle and Calves

Utah cattlemen had a total of 890,000 cattle and calves on farms and ranches January 1, 1999, a decrease of 20,000 head from January 1, 1998. Beef cows, at 335,000 head, were down 20,000 head from 1998. Milk cows, at 95,000 head, were up 5,000 head from January 1, 1998. Beef cow replacement heifers weighing 500 pounds or more were estimated at 72,000 head, 4,000 more than the January 1, 1998 number. Milk cow replacements totaled 43,000 head compared with 50,000 head in 1998. Other heifers, at 70,000 head, increased 10,000 head from the previous year's level. Steers 500 pounds and over totaled 120,000 head, the same as January 1, 1998. Bulls, at 22,000 head, also remained the same as the 1998 level. Calves weighing less than 500 pounds were estimated at 133,000 head, 8,000 head more than the January 1, 1998 level.

Utah's 1998 calf crop totaled 380,000 head, down 2.6 percent from the 1997 level.

Cattle and calves on full feed for slaughter totaled 40,000 head January 1, 1999, the same as January 1, 1998.

Value per head of all cattle and calves averaged \$590.00 January 1, 1999 compared with \$600.00 per head on

January 1, 1998. Total inventory was valued at \$525.1 million, down 3.8 percent from 1998.

Utah operations with cattle and calves in 1998 totaled 8,000, an increase of 200 farms from 1997. The breakdown by size group was as follows: 4,500 operations with 1 to 49 head; 1,220 with 50 to 99 head; 1,900 with 100 to 499 head; 250 with 500 to 999 head; and 130 with 1,000 head or more. Operations with more than 500 head accounted for 40 percent of the Utah cattle inventory, and those with 100 to 499 head accounted for 43 percent.

Beef production during 1998 totaled 370.7 million pounds, down 5.6 percent from the previous year. Marketings during the year totaled 470.0 million pounds, down 2.7 percent from 1997.

Cash receipts for 1998 totaled \$303.1 million, down 5.2 percent from the previous year. Price of cattle averaged \$63.00 per hundredweight (cwt), down \$2.00 from 1997. The 1998 average slaughter cow price, at \$34.00 per cwt compares with \$37.00 in 1997. The 1997 steer and heifer price at \$65.00 per cwt was \$3.00 below 1997. The average price for calves less than 500 pounds during 1998 was \$81.00 per cwt, up \$1.00 from 1997.

